GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:511
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
EARTHQUAKE RESISTANT BUILDINGS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC);

(b) the details of steps taken to make multi-storey buildings and structures of National importance earthquake resistant;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for retrofitting of existing residential multi-storey buildings in earthquake prone zones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the NDMC?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has laid down guidelines for the "Management of Earthquakes" in April 2007 with a view to reduce earthquake risk, and minimize the impact, loss of lives and damage to property caused by earthquakes. The guidelines prescribe measures for Central Ministries and Departments and State Governments to prepare disaster management plans having specific components on earthquake risk management. The measures are:

(i) Earthquake Resistant Construction of New Structures;
(ii) Selective Seismic Strengthening & Retrofitting of existing Priority Structures and Lifeline structures;
(iii) Regulation and Enforcement;
(iv) Awareness & Preparedness;
(v) Capacity Development (Education, Training, R&D, Capacity Building and Documentation);
(vi) Emergency Response.

(b) to (e): The responsibility to identify and prioritize the existing structures to make them earthquake resistant lies with the concerned Ministries and Departments and respective State Governments. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 stipulates for preparation of State Disaster Management Plan by every State having regard to the guidelines laid down by the NDMA. The State Disaster Management Plan has to inter-alia, include the measures to be adopted for prevention and mitigation of disasters and the capacity-building and preparedness measures to be taken. The guidelines for Management of Earthquakes laid down by NDMA recognizes that it is not practically feasible or financially viable to retrofit all the existing buildings. Union Government is implementing a National Programme for Capacity Building of Engineers and Architects in Earthquake Risk Management to ensure seismic safe construction by training of structural engineers and architects at reputed institutions. Government has also sent advisories to State Government and Union Territory Administrations from time to time to take up various disaster mitigation and preparedness measures including measures relating to earthquake mitigation and preparedness by way of adoption of modern building bye-laws to ensure seismic resistant construction.